

The Voter Empowerment Act of 2019
Section-By-Section

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Bill title is the Voter Empowerment Act of 2019.
- Statement of policy reinforces the constitutional right to vote and the necessity of protecting the integrity, security, and accountability of U.S. democracy.
- Table of contents.

TITLE I—VOTER REGISTRATION MODERNIZATION

SEC. 100. SHORT TITLE.

- Title I may be called the "Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2019".

Subtitle A—Promoting Internet Registration

SEC. 101. REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF INTERNET FOR VOTER REGISTRATION.

- Amends the NVRA to require the availability of online application, assistance, completion, submission, and receipt of voter registration applications.
- Allows online signature through use of state agency databases, submitting a supplemental paper copy, a verified electronic copy, or other state-established means.
- Directs States to allow voters who complete all other parts of the online voter registration, except for the signature verification, to register to vote and submit a signature upon voting in person or by mail.
- Requires States to inform potential voters about the signature process and their rights.
- Requires States to certify receipt of online voter registration applicants and update potential voters on the status and outcome of their application in a timely and direct manner by email and/ or postal mail.
- Requires that services are provided in a nonpartisan manner.
- Requires the protection of all information provided online.
- Allows states to use a telephone-based system that provides the same services as are available online.
- Requires that voters registered online be treated the same as those registered by mail.

SEC. 102. USE OF INTERNET TO UPDATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

- Allows registered voters to update their registration information online.
- Mandates that States implement necessary security measures to prevent unauthorized changes to voters' registration information.
- Requires State to send receipt of registration update.

SEC. 103. PROVISION OF ELECTION INFORMATION BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TO INDIVIDUALS REGISTERED TO VOTE.

- Adds a space to voter registration form for applicant to provide email address
- Restricts the use of voter's email address to official election purposes only
- Requires that voters who provide an email address be sent an email not later than 7 days before an election including the name and address of the polling place, the hours of operation, and a description of any identification required

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SEC 104. CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT REGARDING NECESSARY INFORMATION TO SHOW ELIGIBILITY.

- State shall consider an applicant to have provided a valid voter registration form if the applicant accurately completes the application and attestation and, in the case of online registration, the applicant provides a signature.

SEC. 105. EFFECTIVE DATE.

- Subtitle takes effect on January 1, 2020.

Subtitle B—Automated Registration of Certain Individuals

SEC. 111. AUTOMATED VOTER REGISTRATION.

- The short title of Subtitle B is the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2019.
- The purpose and findings of this subtitle is to reiterate the purpose and intent of the integrity, accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility of the U.S. electoral process.

Sec. 112. AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

- Requires chief State election officials to establish an automatic voter registration system that complies with this Act.
- Defines an automatic voter registration system.
- Requires the chief State election official to register eligible individuals within 15 days of receiving transmitted information and to notify the individual of their voter status.
- Outlines the notification and opt-out process for one-time automatic voter registration for existing contributing agency records in a manner that allows individuals to choose or decline a party affiliation, correct erroneous information, and learn more about the process.
- Directs chief State election officials to complete the one-time automatic voter registration within 45 days of sending notice, unless the individual declines to register.
- Allows eligible individuals above age 16 and under age 18 to participate in the automatic voter registration process.

SEC. 113. CONTRIBUTING AGENCY ASSISTANCE IN REGISTRATION.

- Requires contributing agencies to assist the chief State election official in registering all eligible individuals served by the agency.
- Directs each contributing agency, including institutions of higher education, to inform confirmed, eligible citizens of the automatic voter registration process, update, and need to select a party affiliation if required by State law -- unless they exercise their right to decline or do not meet the federal qualifications.
- Each contributing agency shall ensure that every individual as the opportunity to decline to be registered to vote.
- Unless the individual declines during the 30-day notice period, each contributing agency will electronically transmit the voter registration information to the chief State election official in a compatible format.
- Prescribes that the individual's name, date of birth, address, proof of citizenship, date information was collected or updated, electronic signature if available, political party affiliation, and any additional information required for Federal office is included in the transmission.

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- Provides an alternate procedure for certain contributing agencies, including institutions of higher education that do not request confirmation of citizenship information from individuals.
- Requires each contributing agency to provide an opportunity for individuals to register to vote every time the individual applies for service or assistance.
- Defines State and Federal contributing agencies – including institutions of higher education that receive Federal funds – and clarifies that the scope of automatic voter registration is limited to individuals who reside in the State.
- Requires the chief State election official to publish the list of contributing agencies 180 days in advance of a Federal election.
- Directs the chief State election official to publicize the automatic voter registration process.

SEC. 114. ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTING AGENCY ASSISTANCE IN REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN EXISTING RECORDS.

- Prescribes the timeline for the initial transmission of information.

SEC. 115. VOTER PROTECTION AND SECURITY IN AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION.

- Includes protection against errors in automatic registration by affirming that a person engaging in intentional fraud in registration or voting is still punishable and prevents adverse Federal and State consequences for a person who is ineligible and did not know the person should decline, or did not mean to become registered.
- Prohibits a contributing agency from collecting information on who declines registration, and prohibits election officials' disclosure of which contributing agency a person visited.
- Limits the use of voter registration records in contexts other than voter registration, election administration, and prosecution of election crimes.
- Requires the National Institute on Standards and Technology to establish enhanced privacy and security standards for how states maintain the voter rolls and protect voters' privacy. States must comply with and publish those compliance standards.

SEC. 116. REGISTRATION PORTABILITY AND CORRECTION.

- Allows registered voters to update and correct their voter registration information at the polling station and cast a regular ballot based upon the most current information.
- Requires election officials to update statewide voter registration lists with the information voter-provided updated and/or corrected information.

SEC. 117. PAYMENTS AND GRANTS.

- Authorizes the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to distribute grants to the states, monitor their use, and allocate funding based on a set of priority investments, including technological upgrades and public education.
- Authorizes an annual appropriation of \$500,000,000 beginning in fiscal year 2020 to implement this Subtitle and permits funds to be available until expended.

SEC. 118. TREATMENT OF EXEMPT STATES.

- Clarifies the treatment and availability of funds for exempt States.

SEC. 119. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

- Requires contributing agencies to ensure that registration services are equally available to individuals with disabilities.

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- Permits contributing agencies to contract with a third party to enable a secure transmission of voter data.
- Reiterates that contributing agencies provide services in a nonpartisan, nondiscriminatory manner.
- Permits a State to communicate with an individual by email if provided and mandates that individual responses are not charged for their response.
- Clarifies that civil enforcement and the private rights of action outlined in the National Voter Registration Act apply to this section.
- Explains that this subtitle does not impact other voting rights and election administration statutes.

SECTION 120. DEFINITIONS.

SECTION. 121. EFFECTIVE DATE.

- This subsection applies to States beginning January 1, 2021, although Election Assistance Commission may grant extensions for extraordinary circumstances.

Subtitle C—Other Initiatives to Promote Voter Registration

SEC. 131. SAME DAY REGISTRATION.

- Mandates that each state permit an individual to register to vote on the day of a federal election and allows already registered voters to update or correct information.

Subtitle D—Conditions on Removal on Basis of Interstate Cross-Checks

SEC. 141. CONDITIONS ON REMOVAL OF REGISTRANTS FROM OFFICIAL LIST OF ELIGIBLE VOTES ON BASIS OF INTERSTATE CROSS-CHECKS.

- Prohibits a State election official from removing a voter deemed ineligible in a cross-state check from a registration list unless the State obtained the voter's full name, date of birth, and last four digits of their Social Security number or obtained documentation from the Electronic Registration Information (ERIC) system that the voter is no longer a resident of the State.
- Requires cross-checks to be completed at least six months ahead of an election.

Subtitle E—Other Initiatives to Promote Voter Registration

SEC. 151. ACCEPTANCE OF VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.

- States must accept voter registration forms from 16 and 17-year olds.
- Does not change the 18-year-old requirement for voting.

SEC. 152. ANNUAL REPORTS ON VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS.

- Requires each State to submit an annual report to Congress and the Election Assistance Commission on voter registration statistics prescribed by this Title. The report will not share any voter identifying information.

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Subtitle F—Availability of HAVA Requirements Payments

SEC. 161. AVAILABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS PAYMENTS UNDER HAVA TO COVER COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH NEW REQUIREMENTS.

Subtitle G—Prohibiting Interference With Voter Registration

SEC. 171. PROHIBITING HINDERING, INTERFERING WITH, OR PREVENTING VOTER REGISTRATION.

- Makes it unlawful to hinder, interfere, or prevent another person from either registering to vote or from aiding another person in registering to vote.

SEC. 172. ESTABLISHMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.

- Requires the Election Assistance Commission to develop and publish best practice recommendations for States to educate voters, poll workers, and election officials about illegal interference with the registration and voting process.

Subtitle H—Saving Voters from Voter Purging

SEC. 181. SHORT TITLE.

- This subtitle may be called the Stop Automatically Voiding Eligible Voters off Their Enlisted Rolls in States Act or the SAVE VOTERS Act.

SEC. 182. CONDITIONS FOR REMOVAL OF VOTERS FROM LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS.

- Prohibits States from removing voters because an individual failed to vote in an election, respond to a notice, or any other action regarding an election or their registration status.
- This Subtitle is effective upon enactment.

TITLE II—ACCESS TO VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

SEC. 201. REQUIREMENTS FOR STATES TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

- Mandates the availability for absentee ballots for individuals with disabilities.
- Allows for individuals with disabilities to request and receive, by mail or electronically, registration forms and absentee ballots.
- Provide absentee ballots no later than 45 days prior to an election, when the request has been received at least 45 days prior to an election.
- Mandates a single state office responsible for providing information to individuals with disabilities.
- Requires states to provide means of electronic communication of information related to registration, voting, etc.
- Includes guidance to ensure that absentee ballots sent to voters with disabilities are the same as those returned.
- Includes hardship exemption for states incapable of providing electronic transmissions, which must be approved by the Attorney General.

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SEC. 202. PILOT PROGRAMS FOR ENABLING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO REGISTER TO VOTE AND VOTE PRIVATELY AND INDEPENDENTLY AT RESIDENCES.

- EAC shall provide funds for states conducting pilot programs to enable individuals with disabilities to use electronic means and telephones to cast ballots.
- States receiving grants submit reports.
- \$30,000,000 appropriated, available for 2020 election programs.

SEC. 203. EXPANSION AND REAUTHORIZATION OF GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSURE VOTING ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

- Provides grants for making absentee voting and voting at home accessible, making polling places accessible.

TITLE III—PROHIBITING VOTER CAGING

SEC. 301. VOTER CAGING AND OTHER QUESTIONABLE CHALLENGES PROHIBITED.

- Prohibits the use of non-forwardable document returned to sender, not-returned document, or unverified list of ineligible individuals, as a basis for preventing an individual from registering or voting in any election.
- Prohibits challenges to an individual's eligibility to vote by any person other than an election official unless it is documented and subject to an oath of good faith factual basis. Clarifies that race and national origin are not permitted as a good faith, factual basis for a challenge.
- Provides penalties for knowingly causing eligible voter to be challenged

SEC. 302. DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING VOTER CAGING.

- Mandates that EAC develop best practices for avoiding voter caging, and include such practices in voter information materials.

TITLE IV—PROHIBITING DECEPTIVE PRACTICES

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

- This Subtitle may be called the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2019

SEC. 402. PROHIBITION ON DECEPTIVE PRACTICES IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

- Makes it unlawful to impede, hinder, discourage, or prevent another person from voting by knowingly providing false information about the time or place of voting or the qualifications for voting.
- Prohibits false written, electronic, telephonic, or other statements regarding Federal elections within 60 days of an election and allows criminal penalties for any infraction.
- Prohibits false written, electronic, telephonic, or other statements regarding public endorsements within 60 days of an election.
- Defines materially false information.
- Bans any person from interfering or hindering another person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person to vote or register to vote in a Federal election, includes a private right of action, and permits criminal penalties for any violation.

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- Provides a maximum penalty of \$100,000 and/ or five years in prison for deceptive practices – including hindering, interfering with, or preventing voting or voter registration -- in Federal elections.
- Authorizes the United States Sentencing Commission to amend the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

SEC. 403. CORRECTIVE ACTION.

- Permits the Attorney General to communicate any correction upon receipt of a credible report of materially false information and a determination that State and local election officials failed to clarify and correct the information.
- Directs the Attorney General, in consultation with the Election Assistance Commission, State and local election officials, civil rights organizations, voter rights and protection groups, and other interested community organizations to publish written procedures and standards for determining corrective action under this section within 180 days of enactment.

SEC. 404. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

- Requires the Attorney General to submit a detailed report to Congress within 180 days of enactment and to make the report available to the public. The report should compile all allegations of deceptive practices.

TITLE V—DEMOCRACY RESTORATION

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

- This title may be called the Democracy Restoration Act of 2019.

SEC. 502. RIGHTS OF CITIZENS.

- Prohibits ineligibility to vote because of conviction of criminal offense, unless person is serving felony sentence in a correctional institution at the time of an election.

SEC. 503. ENFORCEMENT.

- Allows the Attorney General to obtain declaratory or injunctive relief.
- Provides for private right of action for individual aggrieved.
- Includes an exception if the violation occurred 30 days of a Federal election for the aggrieved person to bring civil action to obtain declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to the violation.

SEC. 504. NOTIFICATION OF RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS.

- States must notify any individual convicted that such individual has the right to vote.
- For felony convictions, notification must be made when individual is serving probation or is released from custody.
- For misdemeanor convictions, notification must be made at the time of conviction.
- Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall notify any individual convicted under Federal law.

SEC. 505. DEFINITIONS.

SEC. 506. RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.

- Does not require states to have more restrictive voting rights.

SEC. 507. FEDERAL PRISON FUNDS.

- No state shall receive federal funds without implementing notification of individuals' rights.

SEC. 508. EFFECTIVE DATE.

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- Title applies to every federal election that occurs after the bill is enacted.

TITLE VI—ACCURACY, INTEGRITY, AND SECURITY OF ELECTIONS

Subtitle A—Promoting Accuracy, Integrity, and Security Through Voter Verified Permanent Paper Ballot

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

- This title may be cited as the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2019.

SEC. 602. PAPER BALLOT AND MANUAL COUNTING REQUIREMENTS.

- Requires individual, durable, voter-verified, paper ballots.
- Votes must be counted by hand or optical character recognition device.
- Provides voter an opportunity to correct ballot.
- Ballots are not preserved in any manner that makes it possible to associate a voter to the ballot.
- Paper ballot constitutes official ballot and shall be used for any recount or audit.
- Ensures that the entire process retains alternative language accessibility standards.

SEC. 603. ACCESSIBILITY AND BALLOT VERIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

- Requires private and independent verification of a permanent paper ballot, without manually having to handle the paper ballot.
- Authorizes \$5,000,000 for the Director of the National Science Foundation to make grants to at least three entities to study, test, and develop accessible paper ballots for public use to enhance accessibility for voters with disabilities, whose primary language is not English, and/ or have difficulties with literacy.

SEC. 604. DURABILITY AND READABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BALLOTS.

- Requires that all voter-verified ballots are printed on durable paper that is able to maintain the accuracy and integrity of the ballot throughout multiple handling.

SEC. 605. EFFECTIVE DATES FOR NEW REQUIREMENTS.

- This subtitle applies to every Federal election beginning in 2024, except for certain circumstances.

SEC. 606. CLARIFICATION OF ABILITY OF STATES TO USE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION PAYMENTS TO MEET REQUIREMENTS

- States that none of the changes in this title or to HAVA may be used to prohibit a State from using any payments in order to comply with this title.

TITLE VII—PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

SEC. 701. REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS; ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM AND NONDISCRIMINATORY STANDARDS.

- Ballot shall be counted for statewide election, notwithstanding which polling place it was cast.
- Each State shall establish uniform and nondiscriminatory standards for the issuance, handling, and counting of provisional ballots for elections held on or after January 1, 2020.

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TITLE VIII—EARLY VOTING

SEC. 801. EARLY VOTING.

- Requires early voting in federal elections to occur for at least 15 consecutive days, including weekends, of no less than 4 uniform hours each day, and notes that the early voting should occur within walking distance to public transportation.
- Requires the Election Assistance Commission to establish voluntary early voting standards by June 30, 2020.
- Allows deviation for unforeseen circumstances.
- Makes this section effective to elections held on or after January 1, 2020.

TITLE IX—VOTING BY MAIL

SEC. 901. VOTING BY MAIL.

- Prohibits any additional conditions or requirements to voting by mail, other than deadline and returning the ballot.
- Requires signature comparison in order for absentee ballot to be accepted.
- State or local election officials will ensure that the ballot and voting materials are sent to the individual at least two weeks before the date of a Federal election or as expeditiously as possible if the State's deadline to request a ballot is less than two weeks.
- Ensures that all absentee ballots and voting materials are equally accessibly to voters with disabilities.
- Establish that State and local elected officials must accept any ballot postmarked on or before the date of a Federal election.
- Certifies that this title has no effect on ballots cast by military and overseas voters.
- The effective date of this section is on or after January 1, 2020.
- Directs the Election Assistance Commission to establish voluntary vote by mail standards by June 30, 2020.

TITLE X—ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS AND OVERSEAS VOTERS

Sec. 1001. EXTENDING GUARANTEE OF RESIDENCY FOR VOTING PURPOSES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF ABSENT MILITARY PERSONNEL.

- Extends guarantee of residency for voting purposes to family members other than just spouses if absent due to military or naval orders.

SEC. 1002. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON AVAILABILITY AND TRANSMISSION OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

- Requires report 55 days prior to election certifying that absentee ballots will be available for uniformed services voters and overseas voters by not later than 45 days prior to election
- Requires report 43 days prior to election confirming that ballots have been sent
- Not later than 90 days after election, requires report on combined number of absentee ballots transmitted to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters

SEC. 1003. ENFORCEMENT.

- Permits Attorney General to bring civil action for declaratory or injunctive relief.

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- Allows civil penalty up to \$110,000 for first and up to \$220,000 for each subsequent violation.
- Attorney General must report to Congress by end of each year number of actions brought against states.
- Provides for private right of action.
- Clarifies that the State is the only necessary party defendant.
- Makes the effective date of this section as the day of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1004. REVISIONS TO 45-DAY ABSENTEE BALLOT TRANSMISSION RULE.

- Requires express delivery of ballots if State misses 45-day deadline.
- Requires State enable express delivery for ballot to be returned in sent fewer than 40 days prior to election.
- Clarifies 45 days prior to an election, or most recent weekday which proceeds 45th day in case of weekend or public holiday.

SEC. 1005. USE OF SINGLE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.

- Requires State send absentee ballot for each subsequent election after official post card form has been submitted, except for when voter notifies State that voter no longer wishes to be registered to vote in the State or has registered in another State.
- Prohibits State from refusing an application for absentee ballot because it was sent before the first date on which the State otherwise accepts.

SEC. 1006 EFFECTIVE DATE.

- This subtitle applies to every election occurring after January 1, 2020.

TITLE XI—POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

SEC. 1101. LEAVE TO SERVE AS A POLL WORKER FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

- Executive agency employees are entitled leave up to 6 days a year to assist on any election or to receive training to provide assistance
- Office of Personnel Management may prescribe regulations

SEC. 1102. GRANTS TO STATES FOR POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING.

- EAC may make grants to States for recruiting and training non-partisan poll workers.
- Grant recipients must use EAC materials.
- Amount of grant equal to product of aggregate amount and proportion of voting age population of the state.
- States must submit reports 6 months after training.
- Election Assistance Commission must submit report to Congress no later than one year after grant is made.
- Only 3% of appropriations may be used by EAC to administer program.

SEC. 1103. MODEL POLL WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM.

- The Election Assistance Commission shall develop and provide materials to each State for a model poll worker training program that States may use to train individuals serving as poll workers in Federal elections.
- Materials will include relevant Federal law guidance, ensuring access and the preservation of the dignity and privacy of voters with disabilities, ensuring access to voters with limited English language proficiency and racial and ethnic minorities,

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practical experience of operating voting machines, and related election administration subject matters.

Sec. 1104. State Defined.

TITLE XII—ENHANCEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 1201. ENHANCEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT OF HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002

- Allows individual to file complaint, with Attorney General, to State-based administrative complaint processing entity.
- Provides for a private right of action.
- Does not affect any administrative remedies made available by the State.
- This title applies to any violation for Federal elections held beginning in 2020.

TITLE XIII—FEDERAL ELECTION INTEGRITY

SEC. 1301. PROHIBITION ON CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY CHIEF STATE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

- Chief State election administration officials may not take part in Federal office campaign, including serving as a member of an authorized committee of a candidate, use of official authority to affect the result, or take part in contributions on behalf of any candidate.
- Exception for when official or immediate family member is a candidate, as long as the official recuses themselves from all official responsibilities for the administration of such election.
- Defines immediate family member as a father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-law.
- Federal elections held after December 2019 must comply with this section.

TITLE XIV—GRANTS FOR RISK-LIMITING AUDITS OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS.

SEC. 1401. GRANTS TO STATES FOR CONDUCTING RISK-LIMITING AUDITS OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS.

- Directs the Election Assistance Commission to make a grants available so that eligible States may conduct risk-limiting audits for every Federal general elections beginning in November 2020.
- Describes risk-limiting audits process, rules, and procedures and defines ballot manifest, election agencies, incorrect outcome, outcome, and reported outcome.
- Explains the scope and process for the Election Assistance Commission to certify states as eligible for the grant program.
- Provides \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 2019, until expended, for the grant program.

SEC. 1402. GAO ANALYSIS OF EFFECTS OF AUDITS.

- Directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct analysis on the extent to which risk-limiting audits improved election administration and security within six months of enactment.
- Requires the Comptroller General to submit this report to the appropriate House and Senate committees.

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TITLE XV—PROMOTING VOTER ACCESS THROUGH ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 1501. TREATMENT OF UNIVERSITIES AS VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES.

- Adds institutions of higher education to list of voter registration agencies under National Voter Registration Act.
- Adds a sense of Congress that students have the right to register to vote in the jurisdiction of their college or university or their domicile.

SEC. 1502. MINIMUM NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTERS AFFECTED BY POLLING PLACE CHANGES.

- State must notify an individual, not later than 7 days before election, that voter's polling place has changed.

SEC. 1503. ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY.

- Amends the United States code so that beginning in 2020 the Tuesday after the first Monday in November will be treated as a Federal holiday.
- Includes a sense of Congress that private employers give their employees the day off on this day.

SEC. 1504. PERMITTING THE USE OF SWORN WRITTEN STATEMENT TO MEET IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING.

- If a state has an identification requirement, the State shall permit any individual. who is not a first time voter who registered by mail, to submit a sworn written statement under penalty of perjury to attest for the individual's identification and eligibility to vote in a Federal election.
- Applicable States must provide a pre-printed copy of the certification statement at polling places or with absentee ballot information.
- Any individual who presents a sworn written statement shall be permitted to cast a regular ballot in the same manner as an individual who presents identification.
- Requires States to include information about the right for voters to sign a sworn, written statement in all voting information material posted at the polling place.
- This section is applicable upon enactment.

SEC. 1505. POSTAGE FREE BALLOTS.

- Clarifies that absentee ballots shall be carried expeditiously and free of postage.
- Help America Vote Act funds may be used to reimburse postal service costs associated with absentee ballots.
- Payments may be used from any unobligated or unexpended fiscal year 2019 funds and from Help America Vote Acts funds beginning in fiscal year 2020.

SEC. 1506. REIMBURSEMENT FOR COSTS INCURRED BY STATES IN ESTABLISHING PROGRAM TO TRACK AND CONFIRM RECEIPT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

- Allows States to use Help America Vote Act funds for the costs of establishing a program to establish an absentee ballot tracking program with respect to Federal elections.
- The program should collect information on whether the vote was counted, and if the vote was not counted explain the justification for its exclusion.
- Permits State and local officials to use a toll-free telephone number for voters to obtain this information if the State or local election office does not have an Internet site.

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- The State must submit a statement certifying the creation of an absentee ballot tracking program and costs incurred with the program to the Election Assistance Commission in order to receive a payment for this program.
- Reimbursements may not exceed the product of the number of jurisdictions in which the State is responsible for operating the program and \$3,000.
- Such sums as necessary are authorized for the purpose of the section, and these funds are available until expended.

SEC. 1507. VOTER INFORMATION RESPONSE SYSTEMS AND HOTLINE.

- Attorney General shall develop a state-based response system and hotline that provides information on voting, including voter registration, location and hours of polling places, and how to obtain absentee ballots.
- Attorney General shall ensure that the response system & hotline are developed in consultation with civil rights and voting rights organizations, State and local election officials, voter protection groups, and other interested community organizations, especially those that have experience in the operation of similar systems and services.
- Hotline allows individuals to report information on problems encountered in registering or voting, including intimidation or suppression.
- Hotline must be usable by individuals with disabilities and those with limited proficiency in the English language.
- Establishes task force to provide ongoing analysis of operation of Hotline,
 - Preference to civil rights organizations
 - No criminal offense
 - Term of two years
 - No compensation
- Attorney General reports to congress no later than March 1st every odd-numbered year, description of the reports made and assessment of the effectiveness of the service.
- Appropriates such sums as may be needed, and notes that not less than 15% of appropriations must be used for public awareness of availability of Hotline with an emphasis on outreach to individuals with disabilities and individuals with limited English language proficiency.

Subtitle B—Improvements in Operation of the Election Assistance Commission

SEC. 1511. REAUTHORIZATION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

- Authorizes Election Assistance Commission beginning in fiscal year 2019.
- Eliminates the funding cap.

SEC. 1512. REQUIRING STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN POST-ELECTION SURVEYS.

- Requires each state to comply with any Election Assistance Commission request for post-election survey following any regularly scheduled general election for Federal office beginning in November 2020.

SEC. 1513. REPORTS BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ON USE OF FUNDS TRANSFERRED FROM ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

- The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology must certify at the time of any transfer of funds from the Election Assistance Commission that the Director will submit a report to the Commission within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year detailing how the Director used the funds.

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- This section is applicable beginning in fiscal year 2020.

SEC. 1514. RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE OPERATIONS OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

- Directs the Election Assistance Commission to assess the security, cybersecurity, and effectiveness of the Commission's information technology systems.
- Requires the Election Administration Commission to carry out a review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the State-based Help America Vote Act administrative complaint procedures for the investigation and resolution of allegations and violations.
- Requires the Commission to submit a report to Congress on these findings and recommendations to streamline and improve administrative procedures.

SEC. 1515. REPEAL OF EXEMPTION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FROM CERTAIN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 1521. APPLICATION OF LAWS TO COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

SEC. 1522. REPEAL OF EXEMPTION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FROM CERTAIN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS.

SEC. 1523. NO EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

TITLE XVI—SEVERABILITY